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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/814,288

04/01/2004

Naoki Yoshida

P21-169534M/ISI

6118

21254

7590

09/25/2007

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/814,288	Applicant(s) YOSHIDA, NAOKI	
	Examiner James M. Hewitt	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Attachment X</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The new drawing sheet filed 7/25/07 is acceptable.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the subject matter of claims 13-16 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (JP 2003-021287).

From the Figures, it is clear that Yoshida et al disclose a piping connector as claimed in claims 1-17 and 20, and a method of connecting a piping connector as claimed in claims 18 and 19.

Note that in claims 9 and 10, the phrase "permanent attachment means" is not considered to invoke 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/25/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Yoshida does not disclose "wherein a first distance in the axial direction of the plug between a plug contacting portion of the stopper and a plug

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contacting portion of the seal ring, is equal to or less than a second distance in the axial direction of the plug between an initial stopper contacting portion of the plug and an initial seal ring contacting portion on a radius portion on the plug between the flat portion and the first taper portion." Examiner disagrees. From Attachment X, Figure 7 defines the first distance, i.e. the distance between where the stopper (60) contacts the plug and the seal ring (36) contacts the plug. This distance is definite and known as the stopper is fixed axially as is the seal ring. And Figure 10 defines the second distance, i.e. the distance between an initial stopper contacting portion of the plug and an initial seal ring contacting portion on a radius portion on the plug between the flat portion and first taper portion. The initial seal ring contacting portion on a radius portion on the plug between the flat portion and the first taper portion is fixed as there is only one radius portion on the plug between the flat portion and first taper portion as identified in Attachment X. Yet also from Figure 7, it is clear that this radius portion is where the plug initially contacts the seal ring, or at least the same as in FIG. 2B of Applicant's drawings. From Figures 2, 6-12, but particularly Figure 2 and Figure 10, with the radial axis of the stopper shown as intersecting the point on which the plug initially contacts the stopper. It is clear from the figures, which essentially mirror Applicant's figures in proportion and relative dimensions, the context of the invention and its intended function as well as common sense, that the plug contacts the stopper initially on tapered portion (24), and more than likely at the point indicated in Attachment X, possibly slightly closer to the intersection of taper portion (24) and flat (23). And thus Yoshida can fairly be said to disclose the limitation "wherein a first distance in the axial direction of the plug

between a plug contacting portion of the stopper and a plug contacting portion of the seal ring, is equal to or less than a second distance in the axial direction of the plug between an initial stopper contacting portion of the plug and an initial seal ring contacting portion on a radius portion on the plug between the flat portion and the first taper portion."

Applicant also argues that Yoshida does not disclose "sliding said plug into said stopper such that after said seal ring reaches the radius portion of said plug, the stopper initially makes engaging contact with the plug." Examiner disagrees. The stopper will initially contact the plug at some point at or after the seal ring reaches the radius portion of the plug. This is evidenced by the relative dimensions in Yoshida's figures, especially Figures 7 and 10 and Attachment X. Also refer to the preceding paragraph.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 18 as being anticipated by Hoskins have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 18 and 19 as being anticipated by Hoskins has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

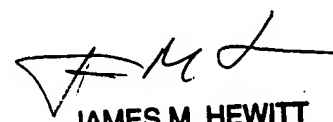
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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

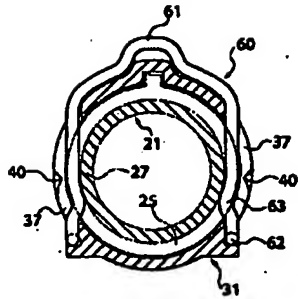
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

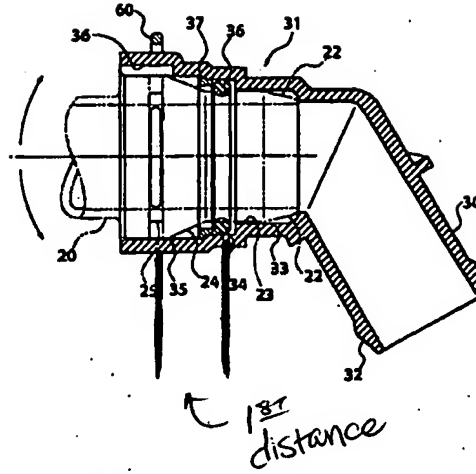
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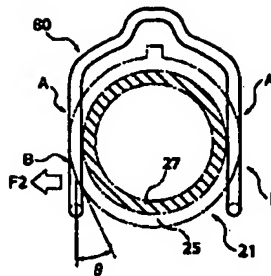
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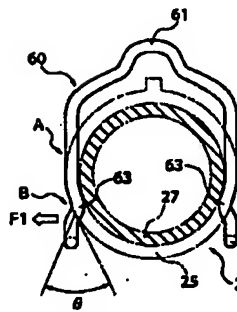
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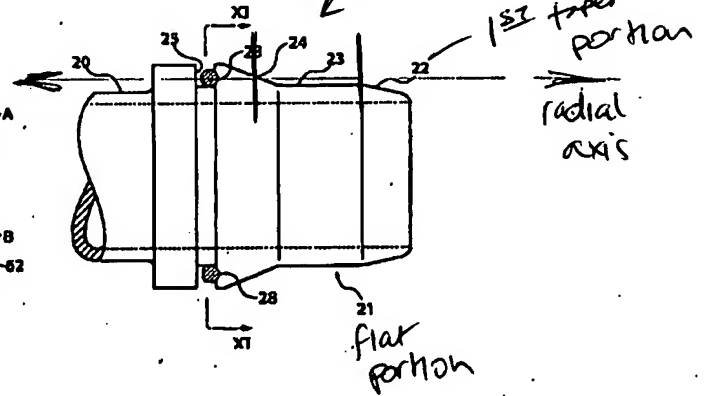
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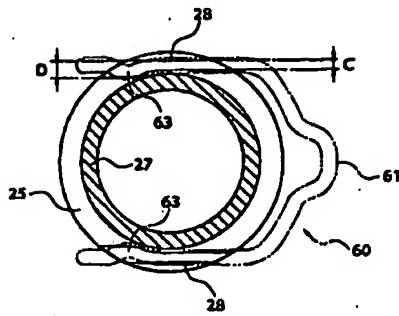
【図9】



【図10】



【図11】



【図12】

